



Indiana Department of Education

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Principals

FROM: Dr. Tony Bennett, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: August 14, 2009

SUBJECT: Schools to Watch Program Launch

The "Schools to Watch" program has launched in Indiana! The "Schools to Watch" initiative is an alliance of educators, researchers and associations dedicated to improving schools for young adolescents across the country.

The National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform, in collaboration with the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning at the University of Indianapolis (CELL), the Indiana Middle Level Education Association (IMLEA) and the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), is now receiving applications from middle level configured schools in Indiana to become "Schools to Watch."

To qualify as a "School to Watch," applicant schools must demonstrate academic excellence, developmental responsiveness and social equity.

The application process is self-reflective and intensive, requiring the completion of an in-depth self study and rating rubric, submission of AYP and ISTEP+ data and a comprehensive, eight-page written narrative.

The mission, criteria and application for this in-depth process of extensive self-study and school improvement can be found on the IMLEA website at www.imlea.org.

This is an opportunity for your school to be one of the first "Schools to Watch" in Indiana. In addition to raising the levels of academic achievement, your accomplishment will bring state and national recognition to your students and staff.

Applications must be submitted by October 15, 2009.

Questions may be directed to the IMLEA office by email, imlea@iasp.org or by calling 317-894-2937.